



MONTANA FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

THE **OUTSIDE** IS IN US ALL.

Meeting Date: Dec 10th, 2020

Agenda Item: Proposed regulation change to eliminate the 80% let off rule for bows used during the archery only season.

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 min

Background:

In 2018/2019 the MT Fish Wildlife and Parks regulation review committee identified a need to change the hunting regulations for archery only seasons and archery only areas that limit a compound bow to 80% let-off. Modern compound bow manufacturers are increasingly building bows that have greater than 80% let-off making it difficult for archery hunters to comply with the regulation. Additionally, FWP enforcement personnel do not have a practical method to measure let-off in the field making the regulation unenforceable. The Montana Bow Hunters Association endorsed removing regulation limiting the let-off on a hunting bow to 80%.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

The public has not had the opportunity to review or comment on this proposal. Public comment can be taken at this meeting.

Alternatives & Analysis:

The commission can vote to remove the 80% let-off limit for hunting bows used during archery only hunting seasons and archery only areas. Making this change will ensure that hunters purchasing a compound bow will be able to comply with the archery hunting regulations. This change will also remove a regulation that can not be practically enforced by FWP enforcement.

The commission can vote not to remove the 80% let-off limit for hunting bows used during the archery only seasons and archery only areas and the hunting regulations will remain as they currently are.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

The Department recommends that the Commission remove the regulation that requires a compound bow to be limited to 80% let-off for archery only hunting seasons and archery only hunting areas.

Proposed Motion:

I move that the Fish and Wildlife Commission remove the regulation limiting compound bows to 80% let-off for the archery only season and archery only areas.